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AUTHOR	Hill, Amie; Herman, Richard
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ABSTRACT

Based on structured interviews with Interlocken students, staff, parents, and alumni, this book presents a historical account of the international coeducational camp, Interlocken, founded in 1961, and its practice and philosophy of experiential education. Section 1 explains the innovative summer-camp/youth-travel mission of Interlocken and its creative and international vision of community. Section 2 describes characteristics of the international summer camp: freedom of choice; adult and student leadership; sense of community; cross-cultural experiences; outdoor education activities; music, theater, and special events; imagination, creativity, and structure in an educational setting; risk, responsibility, and respect; and risk-taking as an educational mode. Section 3 outlines the evolution and aspects of the travel programs; the role of leaders, improvisation, and serendipity; the Magical Mystery Tours as learning structures and community service; documentation as an element of adventure travel; what makes trips good or bad; problem solving and discipline on the road; and cross-cultural experiences. Maintaining continuity in the organization and the camp's long-term influence are examined in Section 4. Section 5 looks at the dynamics of people as the key to a learning community. Section 6 uses specific examples to look at experiments, failures, and creative solutions: defining the problem; staff, administrative and student problems; and networking. Experiential education and its application at Interlocken are described in Section 7. Appendixes give the history of Interlocken, a brief explanation and overview of experiential education, and a discussion of Interlocken's values. Throughout the book, text is intertwined with extensive interviewee quotes. Contains a person index and photographs. (SAS)

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